

Middletown Open Space & Fields Committee

Minutes of Meeting

March 20, 2013

A meeting of the Open Space & Fields Committee took place on Wednesday, March 20, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Middletown Town Hall, Middletown, Rhode Island. The meeting was called to order by Mason Hawes, Chairman

Member Present: Cheryl Boergesson, Nicholas Coogan, Austin Prendergast and Barbara Barrow

Members Absent: Mike Richards, Ed Sisk, Ralph Thomas and John Pinto

Ex-officio Members:

Present: Dick Adams, Town Council Liaison

Absent: Robert Johnson, Conservation Commission

Town Officials: None

Others Present: Barbara Gifford, Park Steward, Linden Park

Agenda

Immediately upon opening the meeting and calling the roll, the following motion was moved, seconded and unanimously approved: That in accordance with Sections 42-46-2, 42-46-4 and 42-46-5(a)(5) of Rhode Island General Laws the open meeting be recessed and the committee reconvene in Executive Session.

The Executive Session concluded at 6:15 p.m., at which time the committee reopened in Open Session with those present as indicated above.

A motion was then made, seconded and unanimously approved that the minutes of the Executive Session be sealed in accordance with Section 42-46-7 of Rhode Island General Laws.

Old Business:

- Exploration of Perpetual Conservation of Middletown Land. Barbara Barrow agreed to chair an ad hoc committee and Nick Coogan and Austin Pendergast have agreed to serve on the committee. A general discussion occurred and it was decided that Barbara and Dick Adams would notify the Town Administrator and the Town Council of the decision to form the committee.**
- Memorial Policy Update. Tim Shaw is scheduled to attend the April meeting to present administrative comments.**
- Revision of Open Space and Recreation Acquisition Policy Scoring Sheet. Decided it needs additional work, will discuss in April.**
- Purgatory Chasm Walkway/Scenic Vista Update. Mason Hawes informed the committee that Shawn Brown has new information that**

will be forthcoming. Janet Coite of the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management appears to be moving the project along.

- **Properties Updates.**

- o **Demery Park. No update available. Ed Sisk has completed his survey and is submitting it.**

- o **Linden Park. Barbara Gifford submitted survey.**

- o **Howland Park. The Town or Peter Downing (steward) will install the barbeque grills soon.**

- o **Tim Shaw. Submitted an Excel spreadsheet update showing work completed and pending at Town parks.**

- o **Planning for Tibbets/Boulevard Sustainable Use. No update available.**

- o **The Valley—Moving Forward. Decision is still pending on the grant application for trail construction that was submitted to the state. The decision on a similar grant for Paradise Valley Park is also still pending.**

- o **Other Parks. No updates available**

- **Beach Facility Advisory Committee Report. A general update was provided by Nick Coogan and Austin Pendergast.**

New Business:

- **Earth Day. Mason Hawes will communicate with the Town administration regarding coordinating town events with appropriate**

publicity for April 20.

- **Surplus Navy Property.** Dick Adams updated the committee that the timeline is advancing on disposition of the various properties.
- **Proposed Agenda Items for April Meeting.**
- **Purgatory Chasm Walkway/Scenic Vista Update**
- **Perpetual Conservation of Middletown Land**
- **Standards for Parks Benches, Location and Memorial Benches (Tim Shaw)**
- **Town Memorial Policy (Tim Shaw)**
- **Revision of Open Space and Recreation Acquisition Policy Scoring Sheet**
- **Park surveys**
- **Properties Updates**
 - o **Planning for Tibbets/Boulevard Sustainable Use**
 - o **The Valley—Moving Forward**
 - o **Other Parks**
- **Beach Facility Advisory Committee Report**
- **Proposed Agenda Items for May Meeting**

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 17, 2013 at 5:30 PM in the Community Room at the Middletown Police Station 123 Valley Road, Middletown.

Mason Hawes